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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

26 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, OIR
Colonel Gerald F. Lillard, G-2
Captain Ray Malpass, OIR
Colonel Jack E. Thomas, AFOSI-2A
Colonel S. M. Lansing, JIG

SUBJECT : Post-Mortem on NIE-60, "Civil Defense in
the USSR"

I. Statement of Findings

1. NIE-60, published on 30 April 1952, represents the first comprehensive survey on the subject made by US intelligence.

2. During the preparation of this estimate, it developed that no one agency or office was assuming overall responsibility for this subject, and that only bits and pieces of uncollated information were available in any one agency. Consequently, the IAC agencies based the estimate largely on a draft that was already being prepared by the Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA. O/SI had some familiarity with technical and scientific aspects of the problem and had in its possession a body of other information on which it was able to draw even though much of this information did not fall within its normal charter. By this means, and with the aid of the other IAC agencies, the estimate was finally completed.

3. In addition, the estimate revealed that no agency had useful information on important aspects, notably the current tempo, nature, and state of readiness of Soviet civil defense activities, and whether and to what extent the USSR was taking specific precautions against atomic and BW attack. While the difficulties in collection of such intelligence are formidable, its lack appears to derive in part from the absence, up to this time, of a single responsible agency charged with the duty of seeking to improve collection. For example, it appears that defectors and PW's have not been specifically interrogated.

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TOP SECRET

JUN 30 1952
NE-75

TOP SECRET

- 2 -

II. Conclusions

4. O/NE believes the subject of civil defense in the USSR is of sufficient importance to the preparation of future estimates on the Soviet Union to warrant action by the IAC agencies to insure systematic processing of relevant information.

5. Since charter responsibilities for this subject are now indefinite if not non-existent, an exploration of capabilities in this field is in order.

III. Action

6. We propose to hold a meeting primarily to:

- a. Ascertain the degree of importance which agencies attach to the subject of civil defense in the USSR; and,
- b. Explore the capabilities of the various agencies to pursue this subject systematically, assuming its importance.

7. Accordingly, it would be appreciated if a representative, qualified to state the position of your agency on the above points, would meet with us at 10:00 Wednesday, 9 July, in Room 146 South Building.


D/Asst. Director/Adm.
National Estimates

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cc: DD/I
AD/SI
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